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SKETCHES

THE INTERNE

Oh the agony of having too much power!
In my passive palm are hundreds of lives.
Strange alchemy!—they drain my blood:
My heart becomes iron; my brain copper; my eyes silver;
my lips brass.
Merely by twitching a supple finger, I twirl lives from me—
strong-winged,
Or fluttering and broken.
They are my children, I am their mother and father.
I watch them live and die.

THE OLD JEW

Not fawn-tinged hospital pajamas could cheat him of his
austerity,
Which tamed even the doctors with its pure fire.
They examined him; made him bow to them:
Massive altars were they, at whose swollen feet grovelled a
worshiper.
Then they laughed, half in scorn of him; and there came a
miracle.
The little man was above them at a bound.
His austerity, like an irresistible sledge-hammer, drove them
lower and lower:
They dwindled while he soared.